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NORHAM & ISLANDSHIRES
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

UPON THE

Health and Sanitary Conditions

OF THE

Norham and Islandshires Rural District

FOR THE

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1950

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**Norham and Islandshires
Rural District**

FOR THE

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1950

Norham and Islandshires Rural District Council



ANNUAL REPORT

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1950.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area—47,011 acres.
Population (estimated)—4,590.
Number of inhabited houses—1,515.
Rateable Value—£19,005.
Sum represented by a 1d. Rate—£78.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Farming is the main industry in this rural district. Salmon fishing provides a livelihood for a considerable population along the riverside, and coalmining in the Scremerston area is the main source of employment in that sector.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

		Total.			Male.	Female.		
Live Births	{	Legitimate	50	21	29	}	Birthrate per 1000	
	{	Illegitimate	3	2	1		Population—11.54	
Still Births—Nil.								

Deaths	...	...	60	31	29	{	Rate per 1000
							Population—13.07
Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis—Nil.							
,, ,, other Puerperal causes—1.							

Death Rate of Infants under one year—

All infants (per 1000 live births)—18.8.
Legitimate infants (per 1000 legitimate live births)—20.0.
Illegitimate infants—Nil.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)—6.

,, ,, Measles—Nil.
,, ,, Whooping Cough—Nil.
,, ,, Diarrhoea—Nil.

General Provision of Health Services for the Area

Medical Officer (part-time) Herbert F. Park, M.B., Ch.B.,
Norham.
Sanitary Inspector N. Senior, M.S.I.A., East Ord.
Laboratory Facilities County Laboratory, Newcastle.

Ambulance Facilities.—These are provided by the National Health Service—from the Berwick depot. Sitting cars are also available, and the service has been quite satisfactory.

Nursing.—Home nursing services are provided under the National Health Service. The District Nurses for the area are resident at Scremerston, Norham, and Cornhill.

Hospitals.—There are no hospitals in the district. Those available are :—Berwick Infirmary (General), Marshall Meadows (Infectious), and Castle Hills (Maternity).

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water.—The consumption of water in the district is still increasing and has presented difficulties in some areas. The gravitation supplies to Norham and Horncliffe areas continue adequate.

Cornhill.—The scheme for taking supplies from the Tweed has not materialised, and at present the Council are again considering the question of acquiring and using the existing local supply.

Holy Island.—Here the position is unchanged—the question of supplies from the mainland has been dropped after an official inquiry, and it is possible that a bore will be attempted on the Island itself to solve the problem.

Scremerston and Ord District.—The Council are negotiating with the Berwick Borough Council for supplies for these parts from the Berwick water supply. If this is arranged, then this district will be adequately served.

Fenwick.—Here arrangements are being made to supplement the present supply by a new bore-hole at Kylvie.

Other areas—including Castle Heaton, Riffington, Norham Mains, Harper Ridge—are still badly watered, but there has been no change during the past year.

No treatment is carried out for the supplies in the district.

Drainage and Sewage.—There have been no major changes, apart from the extension of existing systems to new Council houses.

Scavenging.—The present system of collection of household refuse by waggon has worked satisfactorily throughout the year.

Rivers and Streams.—There has been no gross pollution of streams in the area, and there are no industries to cause this.

Housing.—There is still urgent need for more dwelling houses in the area. Many condemned houses have not yet been replaced.

Twenty Council houses were completed during the year and seven private houses.

PARISHES WITH PIPED SUPPLIES OF WATER

Parish	Number of Houses	Houses with W.C.s	Houses with Baths	Houses with Standpipe supply only
Norham ...	221	124	110	6
Norham Mains ...	19	3	3	16
Horncliffe ...	80	69	58	10
Loanend ...	24	8	8	13
Shoresdean ...	44	30	30	13
Duddo ...	31	28	28	3
Felkington ...	16	15	15	1
Thornton ...	29	17	17	2
Grindon ...	18	2	2	12
Longridge ...	15	6	2	8
Kyloe ...	161	64	48	91
Ancroft ...	351	128	125	201
Holy Island ...	106	22	14	106
Twizell ...	45	13	14	22
Ord ...	129	74	70	37
Cornhill ...	139	36	23	89
Totals ...	1429	639	567	630

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Smallpox ...	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	6	4	0
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—
Enteric Fever ...	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever ...	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	—	—	—
Pneumonia ...	—	—	—
Measles ...	7	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	19	—	—
Cerebral Fever ...	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis ...	3	2	1
Diarrhoea ...	—	—	—

No cases of food poisoning were notified during the year.

TUBERCULOSIS

Age periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non- Respiratory		Respiratory		Non- Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
35	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
45	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 plus	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	3	3	—	—	1	—	—	—

I am,

A. Y. Park

Your obedient servant,

M.O.H

Cross House,
Norham-on-Tweed.
August, 1951.

Annual Report

of the

Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector

For the Year 1950

Gentlemen,

In accordance with the provisions of the Sanitary Officers' (Outside London) Regulations, 1935, I herewith submit the Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1950.

NUMBER OF INSPECTIONS MADE DURING THE YEAR.

Public Health Act, 1936.

Part Two. Sanitation and Buildings	...	...	69
Part Three. Nuisances and Offensive Trades	...	14	
Part Four. Water Supplies	...	...	120
Part Five. Notifiable Diseases	...	...	9
Total Visits, etc.	212

Housing Act, 1936.

Part Two. Inspection of Insanitary Houses	...	10
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Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

Visits in connection with infestations and administration	62
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

Petroleum Consolidated Act, 1928.

Visits in connection with storage of Petrol	...	9
---	-----	---

Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

Food Premises	...	...	...	...	...	1
Unsound Food	...	...	...	...	...	3
						4

Total ... 297

Other Visits and Inspections.

(a)	In connection with repairs to Council houses	90
(b)	With Tradesmen in connection with repairs to Council property	15
(c)	In connection with the Control of Civil Building	91
(d)	Administration of the Town and Country Planning Act, 1947	60
(e)	Miscellaneous Visits, Interviews, etc.	50
	Total	306

TOTAL VISITS, INSPECTIONS,
INTERVIEWS, etc. ... 603



Number of Notices served during the Year.

Informal	...	...	...	...	...	...	50
Statutory	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

Result of Informal Notices.

Drains repaired or renewed	...	...	...	7
Removal of accumulated Refuse	...	...	...	1
Sanitary Conveniences — Repair or pro- vision of W.C.s	...	...	...	31
Dwelling Houses — Dampness eliminated	...	...	...	4

Food Condemned.

33 lbs. Imported Pork. Decomposition.
12 lbs. Cheese. Mouldy.

Samples for Analysis.

	Total.	Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.
Water—Chemical	...	...	...
Bacteriological	27	25	2

COMMENTARY.

Scavenging.—This service, though necessarily meagre considering the acreage of the area, has never broken down. All properties, including the remotest farms, are visited regularly, and the two Council workmen are to be commended for their conscientiousness.

Water Supplies.—Water, as always, presents an urgent problem throughout the area.

Thornton, Norham, Horncliffe.—Water consumption, especially during the summer, is ever increasing, and is such that production is barely outstripping it. Some alleviation was received when the compensatory water from Thornton Mains borehole was brought to the pumping station, but the need for larger pumping equipment to enable the water to be more speedily harnessed is acute.

Scremerston Village.—The breakdown of the Greenwich Hospital water supply was calamitous, for the expense of leading water was prohibitive and the operation was unreliable. The temporary scheme, producing 8,000 gallons of water per day from North Ancroft, now makes good the loss at the Greenwich Hospital source, but even then there is no margin of safety. The supply is working consistently well, but, it is emphasised, this scheme can only be regarded as a temporary expedient, and it is hoped that this coming year will see amicable agreement reached between the neighbouring Local Authority and the District Council for the sale of water for Scremerston Village.

Holy Island.—The scheme to supply the Island with an abundant quantity of water for domestic purposes is experiencing an eventful passage, but it is hoped that success will eventually culminate all the endeavour expended. The future of the Island as a community centre in the District Council area is dependent upon the provision of a piped water supply, modern sewerage, followed by new housing.

Ord Village.—The present supply can now be augmented when needed, i.e., during drought, and the position here is far more cheering than elsewhere in the area.

Ancroft Village.—This small village has recently acquired a piped water supply which is regarded as highly satisfactory, and it is gratifying to note the speed with which the residents endeavour to instal the modern amenities into their homes.

Cornhill.—The provision of a piped water supply into Cornhill Village is probably the neediest yet most troublesome problem of them all. The present privately owned supply cannot hope to contend with serious development, which would obviously follow the installation of piped water. The District Council's Engineers' scheme for raising and treating water from the River Tweed was not accepted by the Ministry, and one hardly dare ponder the time when the Regional Scheme from Glendale Area will be an actuality.

Housing Act, 1949, Section 20—Grant Aid for Improvements. This Act was heralded at its introduction as a welcome successor to the Housing (Rural Workers) Act, but there have been no applications for Grant Aid during the year. It is feared that the high standard of fitness laid down by the Ministry of Health, the ever rising building costs both in labour and materials, and the maximum sum of £600 to be spent on each individual house, even with the potential 50 per cent. grant, makes it an unattractive proposition to most property owners.

Housing.—Twenty-seven new houses were completed during the year, twenty by the District Council and seven privately. Council house building progress was patchy, and at times very slow. Difficulties in obtaining necessary materials were ever an excuse, and, whilst admitting much truth in this respect, it was found that the contractors were not always faithful to their promises. Difficulties arose, too, over various sub-contractors not being present when needed, and consequently retarding others, and much can be said for the future employment of an "all-in" Contractor, one with all the trades under his own control and in his employ.

Rural Housing Survey. This Housing Survey was completed during the year. The total number of houses surveyed under the Northumberland County standard was 1,307. This total included 242 Council houses, of which 132 were pre-war and 110 post-war. Considerable work of improvement has been carried out to various cottages within the area following the commencement of the survey, and houses which were originally classified as Category 4 have been upgraded to Categories 2 and 3 dependent on the work done. The result of the survey is :—

Category 1.	Houses to standard in all respects fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	342
Category 2.	Houses to standard and fit in all respects save for minor repairs and/or provision of a bath and hot and cold water supply	...	...	...	...	291
Category 3.	Houses below standard in facilities but otherwise structurally fit, and requiring alteration or amendment to attain facilities standard	...	...	...	...	219
Category 4.	Houses worthy of reconditioning to attain standard in all respects	...	...	...	...	256
Category 5.	Houses which should be condemned	...	...	...	...	199
						<hr/> 1,307 <hr/>

Building Licences.—Throughout the year 29 applications for Building Licences were received, and all were approved.

Plans.—Throughout the year 50 plans were deposited, and all were approved by the District Council.

Disinfection.—All premises where infectious diseases have occurred have been disinfected during the year

Slaughterhouses.—Both these are situated in Norham but are not in use as such, as meat supplies are controlled by the Ministry of Food from outside the area.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,



Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.

34, Eastern Lane,
Berwick-upon-Tweed.
September, 1951.



